

REMARKS

Claims 13, 26, and 39 are pending. Claims 1-12, 14-25, and 27-38 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 13, 26, and 39 have been redrafted in independent form. Claims 13, 26, and 39 are independent.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner objects to the Abstract because of its length. In response, Applicant has amended the Abstract so that it does not exceed 150 words, thereby obviating the objection.

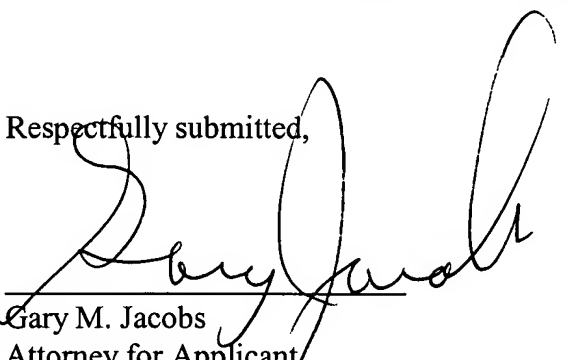
Claims 1, 5, 9-12, 14, 18, 22-25, 27, 31, and 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by the patent to Imura, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,974,270). Claims 2, 15, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over the patent to Imura, et al. in view of the patent to Usui (U.S. Patent No. 6, 400, 902). Claims 3, 4, 6, 16, 17, 19, 29, 30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the patent to Imura, et al. Claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the patent to Imura, et al. in view of the patent to Imada (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,546). In addition, Claims 13, 26, and 39 would be allowed if redrafted in independent form.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 1-12, 14-25, and 27-38 have been canceled without prejudice and Claims 13, 26, and 39 have been redrafted in independent form.

Since the only claims remaining in the case are allowable, Applicant respectfully requests that the application now be allowed and that the case be passed to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Jacobs
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

GMJ/lp

DC_MAIN 208244v1